



## **As We Gather      Fifth Sunday of Easter      April 28, 2024**

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

**Mesquite Lutheran Church & Childcare Center**

**450 Turtleback Road Mesquite, NV 89027**

Church **702.346.5811** Childcare 702.346.3954

**Rev. David Constien**

Email: [pastor@mesquitelutheran.org](mailto:pastor@mesquitelutheran.org) Cell: 815.409.1156

[www.facebook.com/mesquitelcc](http://www.facebook.com/mesquitelcc)



Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.  
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.

**A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones. Thank You.**

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION**



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily.  
(1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- \*Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- \*Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- \*Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- \*Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

### **Please Note**

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church to come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,  
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.  
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

**PRELUDE** Voluntary in G Major - Henry Heron  
**WELCOME**

**PREPARATION**

**OPENING HYMN** #913 “O Holy Spirit, Enter In”

**INVOCATION**

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5*

- P** Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
- C** sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!
- P** Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!
- C** All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”
- P** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,
- C** who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.
- P** You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!
- C** I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P** Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- C** O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.
- P** God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
- C** Amen.

**P** As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## WORD

**INTROIT** *Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

**P** A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

**C** I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

**P** Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

**C** The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**P** All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

**C** My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P** A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

**KYRIE** *LSB 186*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** “Splendor and Honor” *LSB 950*

Splendor and honor, majesty and power

Are Yours, O Lord God, fount of ev’ry blessing,

For by Your bidding was the whole creation Called into being.

**To the Almighty, throned in heav'nly splendor,  
And to the Savior, Christ our Lamb and Shepherd,  
Be adoration, praise, and glory given, Now and forever.**

(Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944 Text: © 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018714)

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine and we are the branches. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **FIRST READING      Acts 8:26–40**

“An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found

himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **EPISTLE READING 1 John 4:1–11**

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **VERSE**      *Romans 6:9; John 14:23*

**P** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

**C** Alleluia. **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.**

### **HOLY GOSPEL John 15:1–8**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear

fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY # 633 “At The Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” vrs. 1,2,7,8**

**SERMON “Heard It From The Grapevine” John 15:1-8**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, Your only Son came in the flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior.

Protect us from all false teaching and the spirit of the Antichrist, that we may always confess Christ to be our only true God and remain faithful to Him. Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**P** [*Petitions...*] Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**P** Holy Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and Your saints shall bless You; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY “Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful”

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
That we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us  
A foretaste of the feast to come.**

(Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018714)

## SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have shown mercy to all in Christ our Redeemer, the Vine divine. Receive our thanks that as branches of the Vine, we are created to bear fruit. Unite our praises with those of all the faithful who are connected to Christ and join them with the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.



## SANCTUS *LSB 178*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might:  
Heav’n and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## WORDS OF OUR LORD “Remember Me” by Martin Nystrom, Gerrit Gustafson

**P** (*sung*) “On the night ... This is My blood poured out for you and as you drink it remember Me.”

- C** (*sung*) “So we thank You for the wine and for the bread;  
For we see the life You gave And the blood you shed.  
And we remember Your wondrous love  
You gave your body You shed Your blood  
And we remember Your wondrous love  
You gave your body You shed your blood.”

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## LORD'S PRAYER

- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI *LSB 180*

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us  
peace.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#845 Where Charity And Love Prevail #783 Take My Life And Let It Be

## Jesus, Name Above All Names

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, Beau - ti - ful  
Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Em -  
man - u - el, God is with us, Bless - ed Re -  
deem - er, liv - ing Word. \_\_\_\_\_

(Text and tune: Naida Hearn, 1930-2001  
Text and tune: © 1974, 1978 Scripture in Song, admin. Music Services (ASCAP). Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018714)

## #571 God Loved the World So That He Gave #680 Thine the Amen

### POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray. Holy Father, we ask You now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver Your Church from every evil, to teach it to love You perfectly, and make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the wine was drawn from the fruitfulness of many grapes. Grant that we ever abide as branches of the Vine, Christ Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

### BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN #924 “Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/POSTLUDE

**Altar flowers today are given by Gail & George Snow  
in celebration of Gail's birthday.**

**Reader Today: Gail Snow**

**PRAYER LIST: Raina Mitchell**, surgery recovery; **Steve Webb**, prep. for surgery;  
**family of Aaron Crouch**, d. Tues.

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**TODAY 11:00 a.m. Semi-Annual Cong. Meeting**

Tues. Apr. 30 11:00 a.m. Preschool Chapel

Wed. May 1 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Casa

Thur. May 2 10:30 a.m. Support Group

**Sunday May 5 8:30 Bible Study; 9:00 a.m. Thrivent Info; 10:00 a.m. Worship**

**THRIVENT REPRESENTATIVE** David Thiel will give a brief presentation on services Thrivent provides for congregations, families, and individuals next Sunday, May 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall after the start of Bible study. It is an informational presentation and opportunity for him to answer any questions you might have.

**WANT TO PUT NAMES WITH FACES?!** Now's your chance! Get your picture taken for our **new wall directory in the fellowship hall: "Our Church Family"!** **Sign up** at the "sign-ups" table and pick your day. Your picture will be taken here at church on a Sunday when you are present before or after church. Pictures will be taken in the fellowship hall and posted with just your name(s). Pictures will be small (approx. 3"x4"). If you are a "snow bird" who will be leaving soon, please sign up asap! If you have any **questions, contact coordinator Christine Constien, 815-409-2035 or [constien.christine@gmail.com](mailto:constien.christine@gmail.com).**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Apr. 29 Lois Beadles	Apr. 29 Tim Hintz	Apr. 29 Gail Snow
May 1 Jan Hinrichsen	May 7 Polly Struhar	May 9 Judy Duncker
May 12 Brooke Helsten	May 14 Mike Ethington	May 16 Taralee Helsten
May 18 Nancy Martin	May 19 Steve Raddatz	May 19 Caleb Seamann
May 22 Jim Bean	May 23 Karron Knight	May 25 Scott VanLente
May 26 Julie Kuran	May 27 Mary Bollenbecker	May 28 Jean Anderson

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

May 15 Lonnie & Gayle Malwitz	May 17 George & Beverly Brack
May 18 Jim & Patti Jones	May 26 David & Christine Constien
May 28 James & Kathy Hammar	May 28 Gary & Kathie Hartman

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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